

Chad

With internal and subregional conflict generating more than 281,000 refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic in Chad, alongside approximately 150,000 internally displaced, an impending humanitarian disaster led to calls for a robust peacekeeping force in the region during 2007. Cross-border attacks by the Janjaweed militia from neighboring Darfur complicated an already complex situation, as the government of Chad battled several rebel groups, notably the United Front for Democratic Change; the Platform for Change, National Unity, and Democracy; and the Popular Rally for Justice. The conflicts in eastern Chad, in the northeastern region of the Central African Republic, and in Darfur, Sudan, continued to feed each other, forming a broader regional conflict vortex. Efforts to deploy a UN peace operation were hampered when the Chadian government consented to the deployment of UN civilian police, but objected to the presence of UN troops.

This led to a compromise agreement for the UN to deploy a civilian and police team and for the EU to deploy a limited troop presence. The Security Council adopted Resolution 1778, authorizing the establishment of the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), on 25 September 2007. MINURCAT will consist of a total of 300 police and 50 military liaison officers with a mandate to assist in training the Chadian national police and to liaise with other security services such as the army, the gendarmerie, and judicial officials, with the aim of fostering an improved security atmosphere in both countries. The mission was also mandated to liaise with the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS), the hybrid UN-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), the UN Peacebuilding

UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)

• Authorization Date	25 September 2007 (UNSC Res. 1778)
• Proposed Start Date	Early 2008
• Proposed Budget	\$182.4 million (1 July 2007–30 June 2008)
• Proposed Strength	Police: 300 Military Liaison Officers: 50 International Civilian Staff: 10

EU Force in the Republic of Chad and the Central African Republic (EUFOR TCHAD/RCA)

• Proposed Start Date	Early 2008
• Proposed Strength	Troops: 3,700

Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA), and the Force Multinationale de la Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (FOMUC) on existing and potential issues affecting the humanitarian situation in the area. This was followed by an EU Joint Council Action authorizing the deployment of the EU Force in the Republic of Chad and the Central African Republic (EUFOR TCHAD/RCA) on 15 October 2007. The EU mission, comprising 1,500–3,000 troops, was mandated to protect civilians, especially refugees and internally displaced persons, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian supplies and to protect UN personnel and facilities. As the year drew to a close, efforts to deploy the UN and EU missions were slowly getting under way.

Chad fell into civil war soon after independence in 1960 and has been involved in internal

and regional conflicts ever since. The government of President Idriss Déby, which came to power in 1989, has been the target of several rebellions, including an intense civil war with the Mouvement pour la Démocratie et la Justice au TCHAD (MDJT) between 1998 and 2002. After a failed peace agreement between Déby and the MDJT in 2002, a rapid proliferation of rebel groups occurred in Chad, spurred by waves of defecting soldiers from the Chadian army.

The recent conflict, however, has centered on the deteriorating relationship between Sudan and Chad and the massive cross-border population movements caused by the violence in Darfur. In 2005, following a number of major attacks on towns in eastern Chad by Chadian rebels based in Darfur, tensions between the governments rose rapidly amid mutual accusations of arming, supporting, and harboring the respective rebel groups. The Front Uni pour le Changement (FUC) engaged in increasingly bold raids against Chadian government positions, including a failed attempt to seize the capital city of N'Djamena in April 2006.

A cease-fire agreement with Sudan in January 2007 failed to prevent the ongoing

cross-border violence, and on 31 March Janjaweed militiamen killed nearly 400 people in eastern Chad. While Presidents Omar al-Bashir and Idriss Déby did sign a peace agreement on 3 May, aimed at reducing tension between their countries, violence did not abate in 2007. An international force to monitor the border between the two countries, agreed to in Libya in early 2006, never materialized, with civilians on both sides bearing the brunt of the suffering.

Peace talks in Tripoli with Chadian rebels culminated in a peace agreement between the government and the four main rebel groups in the country on 25 October 2007. As the year drew to a close, it remained uncertain whether the Tripoli Peace Agreement and the deployment of the UN-EU missions in Chad and the Central African Republic would help stem the tide of violence in Chad and the subregion as a whole. Clashes in the east on the Darfur border, between government and rebel forces in the face of threats to EU peacekeepers if they were to side with the Déby government, coupled with difficulties encountered by the EU in generating crucial force multipliers such as attack helicopters, raised questions about the feasibility and effectiveness of the planned missions.